

Florida - 8th District

8 C.W. Bill Young (R)

Of St. Petersburg — Elected 1970

Born: Dec. 16, 1930, Harmarville, Pa.
Education: Attended Pa. public schools.
Military Career: National Guard, 1948-57.
Occupation: Insurance executive.
Family: Wife, Marian Ford; three children.
Religion: Methodist.
Political Career: Fla. Senate, 1961-71, minority leader, 1967-71.
Capitol Office: 2266 Rayburn Bldg. 20515; 225-5961.



In Washington: Young's slick pompadour hair style sometimes makes him look like a middle-aged refugee from a 1950s' rock movie, but he is in reality one of the more serious and effective conservatives in the House.

Congress has become increasingly suspicious of multilateral foreign aid in recent years, and Young is the man who has done most to seize on the mood and intensify it. He left the Appropriations subcommittee handling foreign aid in 1981, saying he wanted to work on other things, but he has never quite let go of the issue. As a member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, he still argues for the need to switch American aid priorities from economic to military.

Young does not oppose U.S. participation in institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, but he has insisted the United States should have more say in how its money is spent. He has bitterly opposed attempts to lend money to communist countries.

Young began to develop his reputation as a scourge of foreign aid in 1977, when he shocked the House with his successful amendment to ban indirect U.S. aid to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam or Uganda. The vote caused a dispute between the House and Senate, which did not go along with the ban. It ended only when President Carter agreed to a compromise instructing U.S. officials of the programs to vote against loans to those nations.

The following year, Young tried to attach the same amendment to the foreign aid appropriations bill. Democratic leaders conducted a massive lobbying campaign, one in which church groups and even the U.S. Chamber of Commerce applied pressure from the outside. Young lost, 203-198.

But the trend was clearly the other way and since then, backers of multilateral aid have been in retreat. In 1979, World Bank President

Robert McNamara agreed there would be no new loans to Vietnam in fiscal 1980. In 1980 Young's threat of numerous amendments killed a bill authorizing a \$3.24 billion contribution to the International Development Agency, the "soft loan" arm of the World Bank.

The Reagan administration has been sympathetic to Young's views on foreign aid, causing him to play a slightly different role. When his subcommittee reported a foreign aid appropriation in 1981, Young praised it as a "step in the right direction" because the military assistance levels were relatively high. On the floor, though, he still refused to vote for it.

Earlier in the year he had backed off his opposition to a massive budget reconciliation bill after President Reagan personally telephoned to urge him to support it despite the inclusion of some World Bank money.

In 1982 the administration issued a report calling for reductions in U.S. funding for the World Bank, coupled with tighter controls on use of the money in Third World nations. Young admitted he was pleased. Even so, he said, "it would be too much to ask me" to vote for future World Bank funding.

On Defense Appropriations in the 97th Congress, Young was one of the more militant backers of the B-1 bomber against its numerous critics. When opponents argued on the House floor that the B-1 would soon be made obsolete by advanced Stealth aircraft technology, Young held up a paper airplane and said, "This plane in my hand is really the only Stealth bomber we have now or will have in the near future."

Young also used the Defense Subcommittee to fight for a proposed headquarters of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, near his district. The Appropriations Committee reduced the funding for the headquarters in 1981 by \$9 million, largely because the Air Force no longer wanted

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Florida 8

In 1954, the influence of the conservative retirement community in St. Petersburg helped to elect Florida's first 20th-century Republican House member, William C. Cramer. In the years since then, two-party competition has just about ceased. The retirees who have settled in St. Pete — many of them storekeepers, office workers and civil servants from the small-town Midwest — have brought their Republican preferences to Florida with them.

St. Petersburg, or St. Pete, as it is known, has become more than just a haven for retirees in recent years, but the city — like the district as a whole — remains constant in its affection for the GOP. Not too long ago, the St. Pete economy was mostly service oriented, geared to the needs of tourists and elderly residents. The morning rush hour saw many younger workers from St. Pete driving to jobs in Tampa, which provided employment in a greater variety of fields.

But during the last decade, St. Petersburg sought to broaden its economic base by stressing that it offers a good climate for

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business investment. That promotional effort has been quite successful. Some existing manufacturers expanded, and new ones moved in. Now, St. Pete and Pinellas County firms such as I.B.M., E-Systems, Sperry and Honeywell are busy with research, development, production and marketing of a broad range of computers, communications equipment and other high-technology items.

The median age of the Pinellas County population dropped during the decade because so many young people attracted to well-paying jobs moved into the area. A number of the major employers and subcontractors are engaged in defense-related work, and their employees have been enthusiastic about President Reagan and the GOP.

Population: 512,909. White 463,124 (90%), Black 44,983 (9%), Asian and Pacific Islander 2,418 (1%). Spanish origin 7,616 (2%). 18 and over 413,853 (81%), 65 and over 141,405 (28%). Median age: 45.

to build it there, but Young added it again on the House floor.

Young has made useful committee alliances across ideological lines. When some Appropriations conservatives wanted to block liberal Silvio O. Conte of Massachusetts from becoming the panel's ranking Republican, Young put ideology aside and helped round up votes for Conte. Later Conte supported Young over others for the Defense vacancy.

Young is equally willing to play down ideology when it comes to money for his district. On the Appropriations subcommittee dealing with housing matters, he regularly tries to increase housing funds for the elderly, a prime concern in his St. Petersburg constituency. In 1978 Young tried to add \$100 million for housing for the elderly on the House floor, but was defeated. In 1980, after a ship ran into the Sunshine Skyway bridge near St. Petersburg, Young managed to wrest \$50 million for repairs from the highway trust fund.

Young has been careful to separate himself from efforts in the Reagan administration to cut back on Social Security benefits. In 1981 he

led a group of several House Republicans in demanding a meeting with Reagan to discuss the issue. Later, when the president seemed to change his mind about Social Security, Young boasted that "I led the charge on him to back off."

At Home: A high school dropout from a Pennsylvania mining town, Young worked his way to success in the insurance business before going into politics in 1960. Ten years later, he inherited Florida's most dependable Republican seat from Rep. William C. Cramer, who left it to him when he ran for the U.S. Senate in 1970.

Young had known Cramer a long time. He had met the congressman at a Rotary Club barbecue in 1955, worked in his 1956 campaign and was hired as Cramer's district aide in 1957. In 1960 the Pinellas County GOP organization urged Young to challenge a veteran Democratic state senator. He won, and took office as the only Republican in the state Senate. By 1967, he had more than 20 others as company, and was minority leader.

When Cramer announced for the Senate in

1970, there was little question who would replace him. Young won 76 percent of the primary vote and 67 percent in the general election. Since then it has been even easier. In 1980 and 1982, Young was unopposed in both the primary and general election.

In 1981 a number of prominent Republicans were looking for established politicians to challenge Gov. Robert Graham and U.S. Sen.

Lawton Chiles, both Democrats. These GOP leaders intensively courted Young and Republican Rep. L. A. "Skip" Bafalis to run for higher office in 1982. Young pondered a statewide race, then ruled it out, a decision that seemed wise in retrospect. Bafalis took a chance on the gubernatorial contest and was able to win only a dismal 35 percent of the vote against the popular Graham.

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Committees

Appropriations (8th of 21 Republicans)
Defense; Labor-Health and Human Services-Education.

Select Intelligence (3rd of 5 Republicans)
Oversight and Evaluation, ranking; Program and Budget Authorization.

Elections

1982 General

C. W. Bill Young (R) Unopposed

1980 General

C. W. Bill Young (R) Unopposed

Previous Winning Percentages: 1978 (79%) 1976 (65%)
1974 (76%) 1972 (76%) 1970 (67%)

District Vote For President

1980		1976	
D	97,234 (41%)	D	98,426 (49%)
R	124,802 (53%)	R	100,586 (50%)
I	12,280 (5%)		

Campaign Finance

Year	Receipts	Receipts from PACs	Expenditures
1982			
Young (R)	\$131,192	\$35,650 (27%)	\$50,020
1980			
Young (R)	\$61,029	\$8,050 (13%)	\$61,313

Voting Studies

Year	Presidential Support		Party Unity		Conservative Coalition	
	S	O	S	O	S	O
1982	74	16	74	17†	84	5
1981	72	24	83	12	88	7

Year	40	56	85	13	94	4
1980	40	56	85	13	94	4
1979	30	68	89	9	96	3
1978	31	68	83	14	92	7
1977	44	48	84	7	83	5
1976	69	29	84	16	88	10
1975	55	40	82	11	87	10
1974 (Ford)	54	44				
1974	75	25	79	15	80	12
1973	63	31	79	16	78	15
1972	65	32	76	20	76	17
1971	81	16	86	8	89	6

S = Support

O = Opposition

† Not eligible for all recorded votes.

Key Votes

Reagan budget proposal (1981)	Y
Legal services reauthorization (1981)	N
Disapprove sale of AWACs planes to Saudi Arabia (1981)	Y
Index income taxes (1981)	Y
Subsidize home mortgage rates (1982)	Y
Amend Constitution to require balanced budget (1982)	Y
Delete MX funding (1982)	N
Retain existing cap on congressional salaries (1982)	Y
Adopt nuclear freeze (1983)	N

Interest Group Ratings

Year	ADA	ACA	AFL-CIO	CCUS
1982	10	73	5	80
1981	5	83	7	94
1980	11	88	11	76
1979	11	92	26	88
1978	10	93	15	78
1977	10	83	17	94
1976	5	89	30	69
1975	16	93	13	82
1974	4	86	0	70
1973	16	92	27	82
1972	13	87	18	90
1971	5	97	8	-